

October 31, 2002

Dear FCC Commissioners,

I understand that you are soliciting public comment on the rules governing media ownership.

I request that the FCC retain the rules that now prohibit a single network from owning stations that broadcast to more than 35% of the nation's homes and that keep a single company from owning more than eight radio stations in the same market. In fact, I would prefer that these rules become even more restrictive. The increasingly troublesome trend of having our information and entertainment filtered through a small number of sources not only stifles and obscures the rich diversity of viewpoints extant in the United States, it results in the most homogenous, boring programming I have seen and heard over the last four decades.

As a parent, I am particularly disgusted with the lack and quality of children's programming, both on television and the radio. Because broadcasters are not required to provide such programming, they do not. The small amount that is produced mostly promotes violence and material consumption, and undermines the principles of fairness, justice, and cooperation that our schools strive to instill. Competition among broadcast entities helps keep innovative programming alive and ensures that different points of view will be presented. Such diversity encourages the understanding of all American viewpoints, which is particularly crucial at this time in our history.

As you consider revisions to these rules, please keep in mind that our media is our entrance to the world that we cannot otherwise experience. By funneling that world through a small group of companies, we shrink that entrance to a keyhole, through which we can only what those companies want us to see.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

Sincerely,  
Mark Wilson